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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

6 NOV 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Acting Chief, DPD

SUBJECT:

Review of Actions Taken by Special Projects
Branch to Increase Operational Capability of
the CORONA Project

1. This memorandum is written to provide you with a chronological review of actions that have been taken by the Special Projects Branch to improve the operational capability of the CORONA project.

2. During the period 19 thru 21 July 1961, [redacted] visited the west coast facility and held informal talks with Lt. Colonel Murphy over a wide range of subjects. His memorandum for the record (COR 1249) reports the details of the visit. As a result of this trip he consolidated his thinking and wrote a paper entitled "Evaluation of Present Reconnaissance Satellite Program", dated 23 August 1961 (COR 1273).

3. In this paper the following suggestions for improvement in the operational capability of the CORONA project were advanced:

- a. Improve on the method of establishing target priorities.
- b. Using pre-cut tapes.
- c. Flexibility in Inclination Angle.
- d. Flexibility in Launch Date.
- e. Flexibility in Lense-Film Combinations.
- f. Additional operational control.
- g. Establishment of an EWP for this program.

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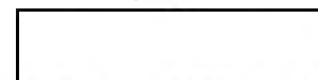
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4. A copy of the above paper was forwarded to Lt. Colonel Murphy for his comments and recommendations. During our visit to the west coast I spoke to him about this and although he had prepared some comments he decided to do some additional research for us. To date we have not received the results of his study.

5. On 19 September 1961, in support of the 23rd of August study, another report, "Operational Control of Satellite Photographic Capability", (COR 1321) was prepared. At this time our desire to have an on hand capability of vehicles, launch pads, cameras, and mission support items was reaffirmed.

6. During the period 9 thru 12 October 1961, Lt. Colonel Murphy visited headquarters on a staff visit. During the numerous conversations held within the Branch a desire on our part to obtain mission planning factors was expressed. Lt. Colonel Murphy felt that [] would have to be contacted for this information. We have not pressed for this information but we will do so when we get a firm indication that the CORONA program is shedding its NRO priority and about to become operational. Until we know the direction we are heading it is difficult to anticipate the planning factors that will be required here.

7. At your request a paper entitled "Operational Concept for the CORONA Program" was prepared for Mr. Bissell's signature. This paper was rewritten and forwarded to Mr. Bissell on 23 October 1961. To date we have not had Dr. Cherryk's reaction to these suggestions.

SIGNED



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Chief, Special Projects Branch, DPD

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DPD/SPE/ [] (1 Nov 61)

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